

LOWCHEN

[LITTLE LION DOG]

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 28/04/2021

ORIGIN

France.

UTILISATION

Companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 233]

In the Amiens Cathedral, the construction, of which, dates back to the 18th century, one can see, carved in stone, two Lowchen, which perfectly represent the breed. In the 15th century, its distinctive silhouette was often depicted in tapestries. The breed was cherished by the ladies of the court of Burgundy. It was especially in the 17th century that the breed was represented in old masterpieces. Buffon describes it very precisely in his "Histoire Naturelle", stressing its rarity. At the same period, the Swedish naturalist, Linné, also mentions it. The Lowchen was once called "Bichon Little Lion Dog". The French Breed Club was founded November 18 1947.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Coat clipped in traditional lion clip, tail also clipped, topped with plume, giving appearance of a little lion. Strongly built, active, well-balanced and alert.

CHARACTERISTICS

Gay, happy, lively little dog.

TEMPERAMENT

Intelligent, affectionate, showing no sign of aggression.

HEAD

Broad, skull relatively flat between the ears. A ratio of one-third muzzle to two-thirds skull. Strong muzzle with good width allowing for correct dentition. Head carried proud and high, well-defined stop. Nose dark: black or brown according to coat colour.

Eyes:

Round, dark, relatively large, and intelligent, with good width between eyes. Unbroken pigmentation of eye-rims; pigment in accordance with coat colour.

Ears:

Set on level with eye. Pendant, of moderate length and well-fringed.

Mouth:

Jaws strong, with perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Dark pigmentation of lips.

NECK

Good length, proudly arched.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well-laid. Forelegs straight with round bone, not too fine. Good width of forechest. Elbows held close to chest.

BODY

Short, strong, and well-proportioned. Level topline. Ribs well-sprung and carried well back. Chest well let down to elbows. Strong, short loin with moderate tuck up.

HINDQUARTERS

Hind legs well-muscled. Good turn of stifle without exaggeration; straight when viewed from the rear.

FEET

Small, round.

TAIL

Medium length, set slightly below the level of the topline, clipped with tuft of hair to resemble a plume. Elegantly arched over the back, only the plume should touch the back when standing or moving.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free, parallel movement fore and aft, no hackneyed action.

COAT

Fairly long, wavy, never curly. Single coat of silky texture. Coat to be shown in its natural state without scissoring or sculpting apart from the traditional Lion Clip, i.e. clipped to the last rib.

COLOUR

- Any colour or combination of colours permissible.
- * Merle is not acceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

25cm – 33cm (approx. 10 – 13”).

***N.B.** Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 233: PETIT CHIEN LION (LITTLE LION DOG)

FCI Classification: Group 9 – Companion and Toy Dogs.

Section 1.3. Bichons and related breeds.

Without working trial.